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Town of Edson

1. LOCATION

Section 15-53-17-W5 in Census Division No. 14. This location is 120 miles west of Edmonton on Highway No. 16 (Yellowhead Route); and on the main line of the Canadian National Railway from Edmonton to Vancouver.

2. ALTITUDE

2,985 feet Latitude 53/35 Longitude 116/25

3. TEMPERATURE

Mean summer temperature - 53 degrees F.

Mean winter temperature - 23 degrees F.

Mean yearly temperature - 36 degrees F.

(These averages cover a period of 22 years.)

4. RAINFALL

Total annual precipitation - 20.27 inches.

(These averages cover a period of 37 years.)

5. GEOLOGY

The underlying rocks in the Edson district are shales and sandstones which were deposited by streams in lakes and deltas. Fresh water in origin, they are several hundred feet thick in that area. The rocks are of the "Paskapoo Formation" and have an early Tertiary Age which began some fifty million years ago. Since these rocks were deposited, the North American continent has been uplifted. Consequently the rocks have eroded and only a fraction



Bustling traffic is an everyday feature of one of the main streets in Edson.

of their original thickness remains. During the Ice Age, glaciers moved over this area depositing on the surface boulder clay and similar glacial deposits. Many of the hills and smaller elevations in this area consist of glacial deposits.

6. SOIL

The soil in this district is of the Grey Wooded variety.

Profile

These soils have developed under humid soil moisture conditions. The surface horizons consist of a semi-decomposed leaf mold layer that may be absent if the area has been burned over; a thin (sometimes absent) lower horizon that may be grey-black, brown or grey-brown, and a severely leached and platy, greyish horizon, whose depth will average about six to eight inches.

The deeper horizons are heavier textured, compact and often darker in color than the top. The depth to lime is quite variable, often ranging from 30 to 50 inches.

Fertility

Soils in this zone are relatively less fertile because of leaching; the deeper the leached layer, the less fertile. However, patches of transition soils are found within the zone.

Vegetation

A mixed deciduous and evergreen woodland in which peats or muskegs frequently occur.

Land Use

This is a mixed farming area in which legumes, hays and coarse grains are the most desirable crops. Rotations, including legumes, supplemented with fertilizers, where needed, have given the most satisfactory results.



Fine modern homes in attractive surroundings make town residences attractive.

7. HISTORY

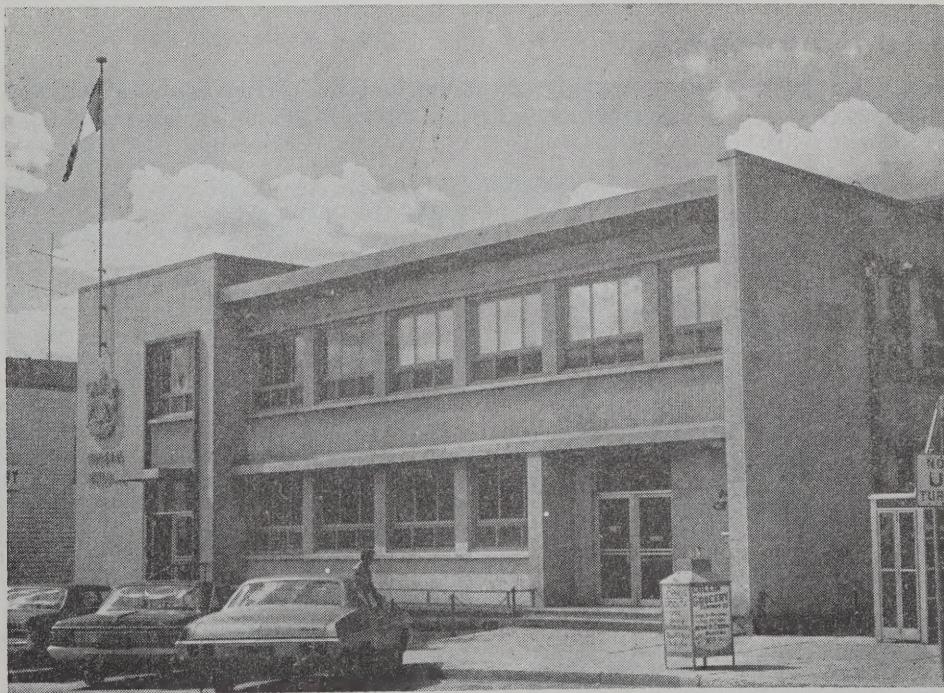
The town of Edson was originally established as Heatherwood, but in 1911, it was renamed for Edson J. Chamberlain, vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

The steel for the railroad was laid in 1910 and the first train arrived in July of that year. B. G. Latta, later chief express agent for the C.N.R., was the first station agent at Edson.

Wolf Creek, 10 miles east of Edson, was the original site for the town. Real estate brokers had acquired all the property with the idea of re-selling it to the rail company, but the G.T.P. refused to buy and so Edson was located as a divisional point on a site that included much muskeg.

Some of the early settlers in the district included W. H. Jellis, who came to Canada with the Barr colonists. He opened a hardware, lumber and construction business. Others were H. A. Switzer, who established a drug store; H. Spanner, who opened Spanner Bros. Store and later sold to another early settler, H. Goldstick; J. D. McKenzie, who opened a shoe store; M. Schwartz of Schwartz General Store; P. Robbins; W. Orr; W. Hope; John Leyden, customs officer; W. Bulten and Jerry Calahan, the first yard-masters for the railroad and also first liquor agent. Fulmer and Covert Real Estate, Swanson Grocery and Davies' Men's Wear were three of the earlier businesses in Edson.

The first postmaster in Edson was J. Griggs, C. C. Markham and Company opened a wholesale feed and grain business. J. H. Lloyd, Sr., was named first village reeve.



The Federal Building in the town houses many administrative services.

Edson was incorporated as a town in September, 1911 with G. Lawrence as mayor and H. Switzer, J. J. Lloyd, Sr., John Griggs and P. F. Robbins as councillors. The same year the Merchants Bank of Canada opened a branch in Edson which later was taken over by the Imperial Bank. That was the year Edson built a two-room school, too. The first school board was formed by F. Fulmer, chairman; W. Jellis, John Griggs and R. H. Bradley.

In 1911 the settlers of Edson, in keeping with the town's rapid progress, formed a 14-piece brass band which held sway in the town until 1918.

Religion came to town with the arrival of Rev. G. S. Provis of the Anglican Church and Rev. J. Whelan of the Methodist Church.

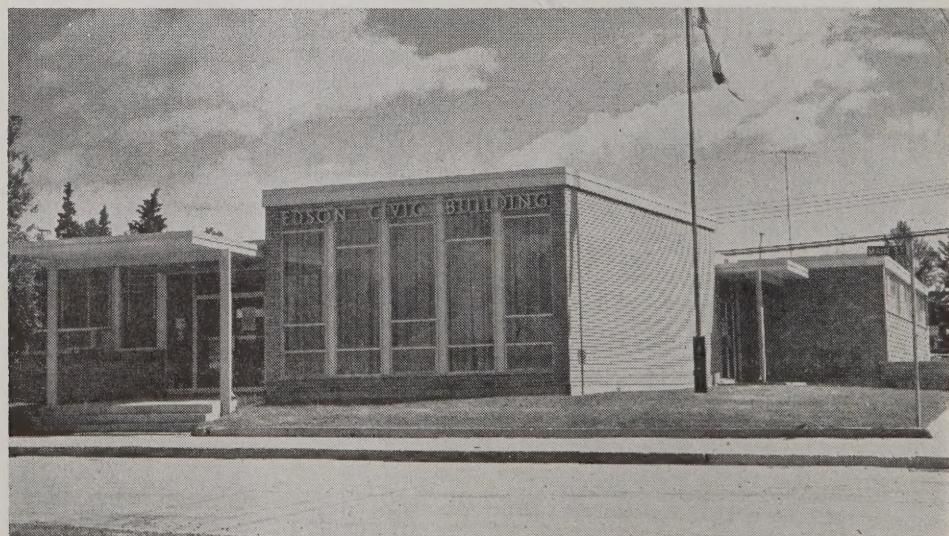
At one time Edson was the jumping-off point for the north and mail for Grande Prairie was taken over this road by stagecoach and horseback from 1911 to April, 1915. When the first mail left in July, 1911, Edson residents held a large celebration to salute the ever-increasing expansion of the northwest.

The Edson Leader, the town's first newspaper, was established in 1912 with W. C. R. Garrioch as editor. In 1914 Edson got a hospital through the work of the Victorian Order of Nurses. This hospital was later taken over by the Sisters of Service of Canada. The first doctor in the town was Dr. Cortiso. Appropriately enough, the first child born in Edson was christened Edson Reid.

Over the years, from its beginnings on an acre of muskeg, Edson has grown and is today 'home' for the men employed in the expanding timber, oil and gas industries.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS

The town of Edson is situated in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, 75 miles from the Jasper National Park gate and 105 miles from the town of Jasper, Alberta.



Affairs of the town are administered through the attractive civic building.

It is a busy centre with ties, lumber, pulp, gas, oil and sulphur development as the focal point. Numerous stores give excellent service to the populace. Edson schools instruct students from grades one to twelve and in addition offer such subjects as Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Music and business courses.

Recreationally speaking Edson is a sportsman's paradise. Good fishing and boating in streams and rivers within a short distance of the town offer family recreation. There is much wildlife in the Edson district and hunters from many points arrive each fall to hunt duck, bush partridge, chicken, deer, moose, elk and bear.

Some 91 per cent of the homes in Edson are owner-occupied. House rentals run about \$125 for a four-room home equipped with all facilities, and \$130 a month for five rooms with facilities.

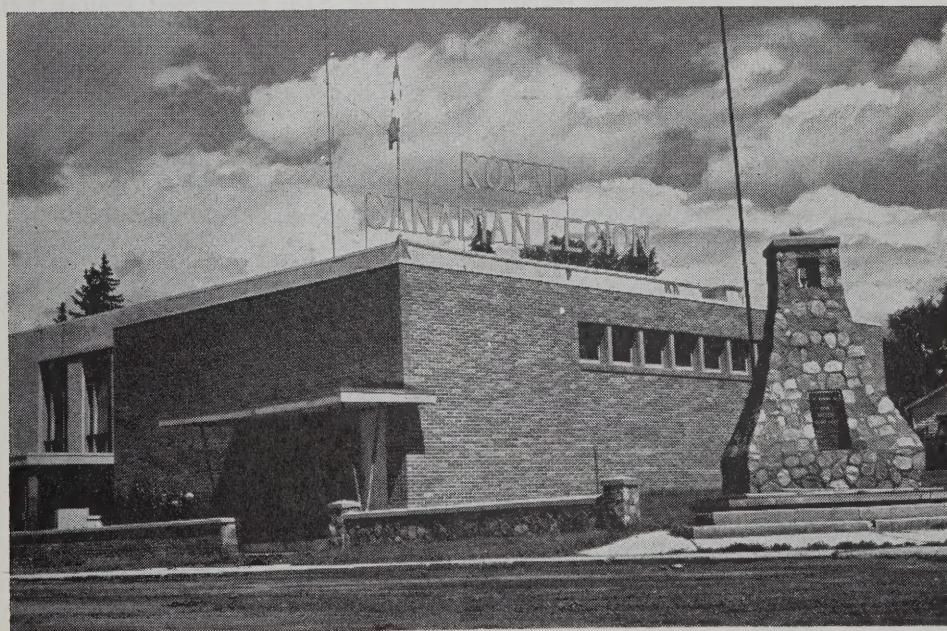
9. ADMINISTRATION

The Town is governed by a mayor and six councillors, elected for a three-year term. It is administered by a permanent secretary-manager, Mr. Peter Serdiak and staff.

10. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

A zoning by-law divides the town into districts, prescribing the purpose for which buildings and land may be used. All plans for new buildings, alterations to buildings and removal of buildings must be submitted to the Building Inspector who in turn issues a permit.

Sanitary regulations comply with Alberta Public Health Regulations.



War memorial and Legion Hall are prominent in the town.

The R.C.M.P. has barracks in town. The unit consists of one sergeant, two corporals and ten constables. The force's duties will comprise law enforcement in the town and highway duties.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade consists of a fire chief and 14 volunteer firemen.
Equipment

One 1952 Chevrolet fire truck, 500 gpm pumper with a 500-gallon water tank, 2,000 feet 2½-inch hose, 1,000 feet 1½-inch hose, 500 feet one-inch hose, extension and roof ladders, coats, boots, axes, helmets, etc.

Water is secured from six wells and is pumped into a 100,000-gallon ground reservoir or directly into the supply system and thence to a 500,000-gallon elevated steel reservoir and a 50,000-gallon elevated steel tank.

There are 64 fire hydrants conveniently located throughout the town. A fire alarm system is connected to all firemen's homes.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

1970 Net Assessment

Land	\$1,493,975.00
Improvements	4,014,190.00
	\$5,508,165.00

Mill Rate (1970):

Municipal 33.15; School 40.30; Health Unit 3.13; Evergreen Foundation .37; Library 1.05. TOTAL: 78 mills.

13. AREAS

Area of town	- 1,624 acres
Streets, lanes and highways	- 254.19 acres
Public parks and playgrounds	- 139.91 acres
Miles of road and streets	- 26.01; (gravel) 5.65; (oil) 9.86.

There are 15.0 miles of concrete sidewalk; 1.8 miles of asphalt; 17.3 miles of sidewalk, curb and gutter.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Sanitary sewers 16.52; water mains 15.26; storm sewers 5.22.

15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle electrical power is supplied to the town by Calgary Power Ltd.

Domestic Service

Available only for lighting, cooking, domestic power and ordinary use

in private houses and individual apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KWH (or less) per month - \$2.60 gross min., subject to 30c prompt payment discount, making \$2.30 net minimum.

Next 280 KWH per month @ 1½c KWH

Over 300 KWH per month @ 1½c KWH

Reconnection charge - \$4.60

General Service

Available where other rates do not apply:

For first KW, or fraction thereof of billing demand, minimum monthly charge - \$2.30.

Monthly minimum - \$2.30

Monthly service charge per KW of demand - \$1.00

First 40 KWH per KW of demand per month - .05c per KW

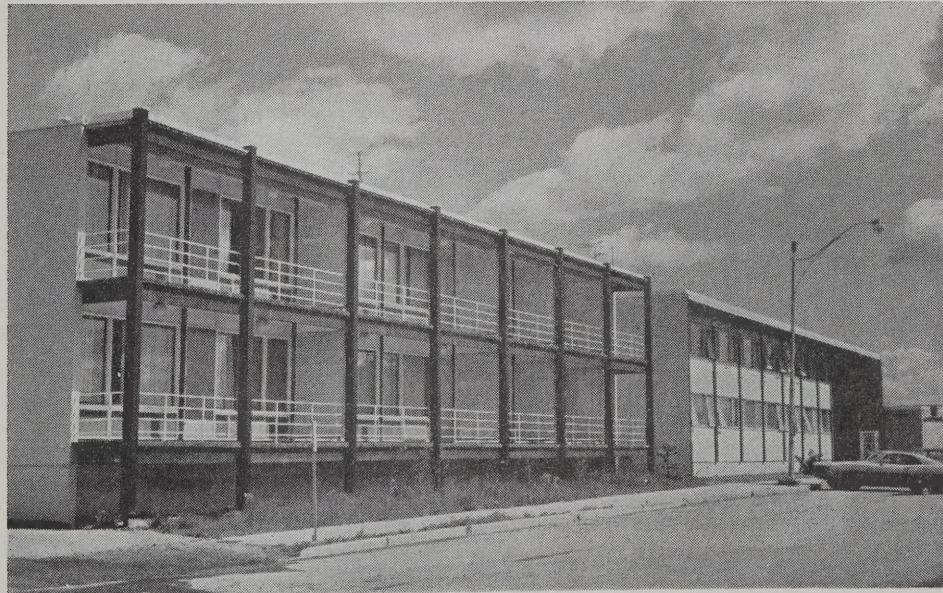
Next 70 KWH per month per KW of billing demand - .03c per KW

All additional KWH consumed per month - .0125c per KW

All over 700 KWH per month in .03c block are at .0125c per KW.

Discount

The above charges for commercial and general service are net rates. For billing purposes the net bill will be increased by approximately 10% (but not less than 30c) in order to arrive at the gross amount. Bills are payable net within 10 days of date rendered.



A holiday and travel centre, the town provides many fine motels and hotels.

Deposit

Twice the minimum monthly bill or at the company option, twice the estimated bill.

Reconnection Charge

Twice the minimum monthly bill.

16. WATER

Water is obtained from four primary and four standby wells (108 feet to 316 feet deep) with a total capacity of 340 gpm. Average daily consumption in 1970 was 236,500 gallons. Water is pumped into a 100,000 gallon ground reservoir or directly into the supply system and then into a 500,000 gallon elevated steel ground reservoir or to a steel 65,000 gallon elevated tank. There are 994 service connections totally metered.

Total consumption 1970: 86,265,500 gallons.

Water Rates

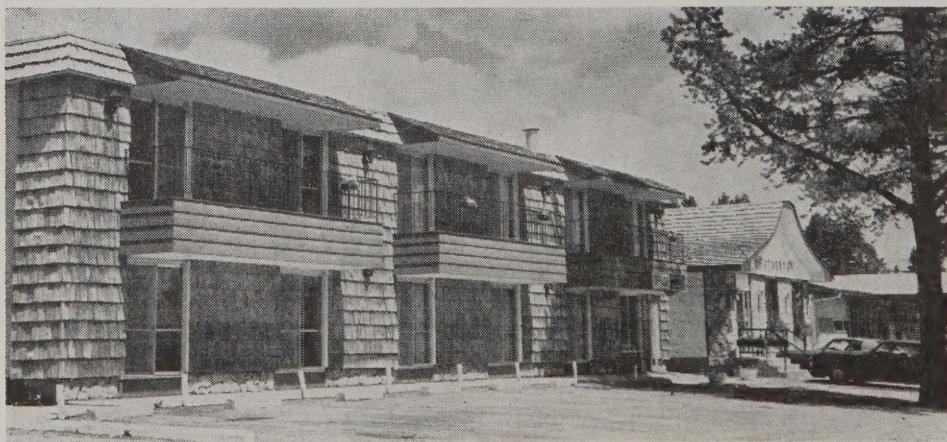
First 1,000 gallons used per month - \$1.25 net per month.

All additional gallons used per month - 75c per M gallons.

Minimum charge - \$3.50 net per month.

Water Analysis

	Parts per Million
Total solids	- 560
Ignition Loss	- 120
Hardness	- 145
Sulphates	- 24
Chlorides	- 2
Alkalinity	- 447
Nitrites	- Nil
Nitrates	- Nil
Iron	- .07
Fluorine	- .24



Travellers' facilities, both food and accommodation, are available along the highway.

17. GAS

Natural gas is supplied to the town under a franchise to Northwestern Utilities Ltd.

General Rate No. 1

Available to all customers.

First 20 therms or less - \$2.50 per month.

All additional therms - 5.2c per therm.

Minimum monthly charge - \$2.50.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date the charge per therm, other than the first 20 therms, shall be increased by .3c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

Optional Rate No. 2

Available on annual contract to all customers where annual consumption is more than 22,200 therms.

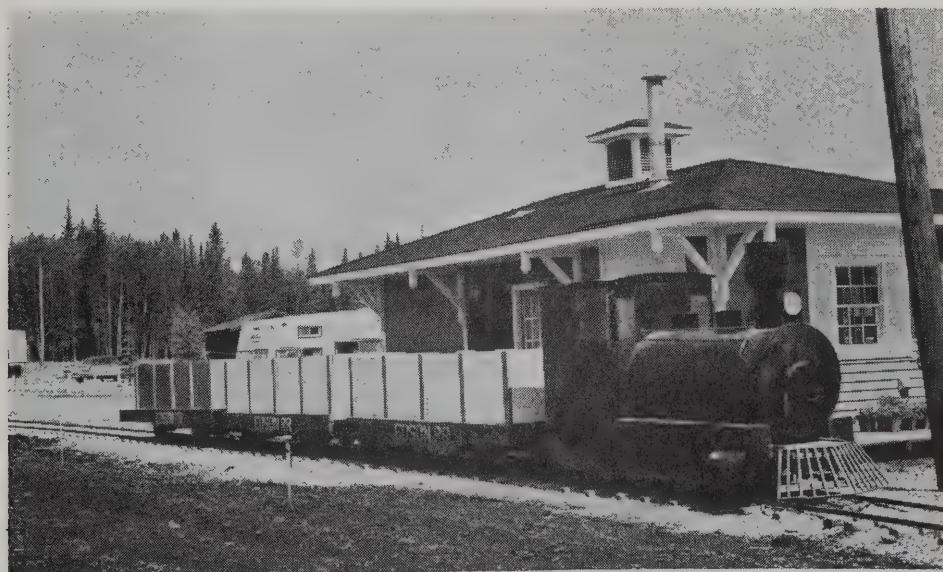
Fixed charge - \$20.00 per month; plus

Commodity charge - 4.2c per therm.

Minimum monthly charge - \$20.00.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date the charge per therm shall be increased 0.2c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

The rate is available only on an annual contract, which shall continue from year to year thereafter until either party shall give to the other party, at least 30 days prior to the expiration of any such year, a written notice of desire to terminate same, whereupon at the expiration of such year it shall cease and determine.



Conscious of the many visitors to the town on the Yellowhead Route, the local park provides junior entertainment on this train.

18. L.P. GAS

Heat value - 2,521 b.t.u. per gallon at 60 degrees F.
100-pound cylinder - \$6.00 F.O.B. Edson.

19. HEATING FUEL

Heat value - 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60 degrees F.
21c per gallon.
Storage capacity - 26,000 gallons.

20. COAL

None used in town.

21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Soft woods such as spruce, poplar and pine; clay for bricks; sand and gravel, marl, straw (hay), cereals, dairy products, poultry, eggs, etc., cattle, sheep, horses, hogs, honey, oil, gas, seed potatoes, vegetables.

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal

Post Office, Canada Manpower Centre, R.C.M.P. Barracks (detachment and highway patrol), 24-hour Meteorological Station.

Provincial

Court House, Resident Police Magistrate, Probation Office, Liquor Store, Treasury Branch, Alberta Government Telephones, Microwave Tower, Depart-



St. John's Hospital in Edson offers excellent medical services through modern equipment and excellent staffing.

ment of Highways and Transport, Driver Examiner, Machinery Maintenance Depot, Resident District Road Engineer, District Superintendent of Schools, Electrical Protection Branch, Assessment Branch, Improvement District 95-78-79-96, Department of Lands and Forests, Forest Superintendent, Radio Technician and Operator, Mechanical Foreman, Fish and Wildlife Inspection Service Branch, Department of Social Development, Department of Public Works, Building Maintenance, Municipal Affairs, Department of Youth.

H.R.D.A. Centre for Census Division No. 14.

Municipal

Civic Building - Town Secretary Manager and Staff, Superintendent of Works, Fire Hall, Public Library (approximately 8,330 volumes).

Garbage collected weekly by town crews.

23. HEALTH SERVICES

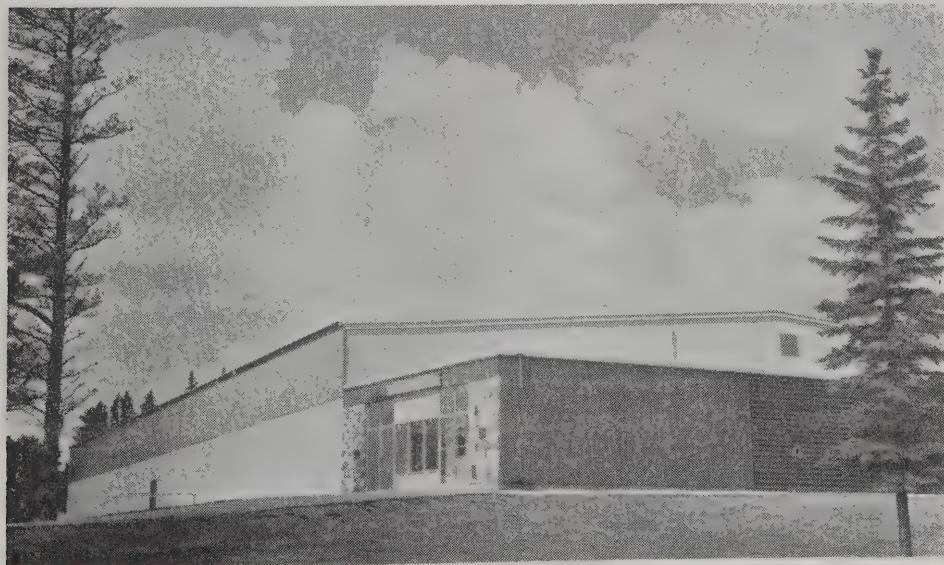
The St. John's Hospital is operated by the Sisters of Service of Canada and is staffed by a Sister Administrator, 18 graduate nurses, five certified ward aides, three certified X-ray and lab technicians. The hospital contains 50 beds and nine bassinets. It was completed in 1969. Total staff is 63.

There is an up-to-date clinic which houses the doctors. Each office has an examination room with modern equipment.

Other Health Services

Four doctors, two chiropractors, two drug stores, one ambulance service.

The Edson Health Unit with headquarters at Edson, serves an area from Drayton Valley and Evansburg west to Hinton. The unit is staffed by a doctor, health inspector, sanitary inspector, nurses, dental hygenist and stenographer technician.



The Edson Arena is a popular centre for recreational activities of town and district.

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED SERVICES

(Excluding Health Services)

Type of Service	Number of Establishments
Barristers and Lawyers	2
Beauty Parlors	4
Barber Shops	5
Watch Repairs	1

25. TRANSPORTATION

Main line Canadian National Railways - Vancouver to Montreal via Edson.

Highway No. 16 - hard surface, Lloydminster to Jasper via Edson.

Greyhound - daily service east and west.

Daily truck service to Edmonton and return.

One taxi service - 5 cabs.

Ambulance service.

Airstrip - light craft only.

26. NEWSPAPERS

Edson Leader - weekly circulation 2,100.

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian National Telegraphs.

Alberta Government Telephones (automatic microwave circuits and land line circuits).

Teletype - and mobile radio.

Post Office.

Domiciled radio station CJYR, 970 kc, 10 kw, with re-broadcasting outlet at Jasper townsite.

Nearest television stations - Edmonton, CFRN-TV, CBX-TV (with re-broadcasting towers on channels 12 and 9 respectively at Whitecourt).

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, Alberta Treasury Branch, Edson District Credit Union.

29. HOTELS

	No. of Rooms	Rates	Licensed
Commodore	35	\$4.50	yes
Edson Motor Hotel	52	\$8.00	yes

30. TOURIST CAMPS

	No. of Units	Grade
Pines Motel	21	4 star
Totem Motel	12	4 star
Tourist Centre Motel	14	4 star
Yellowhead Motel	16	4 star
Oil Centre Motel	10	4 star
Summit Motel	21	4 star
Cedars Motel	24	4 star

Trailer Parks

Sunset Trailer Park, Hitchin' Post Trailer Park, Poplar Place Trailer Park, Lions Tourist Reception Centre.

31. CHURCHES

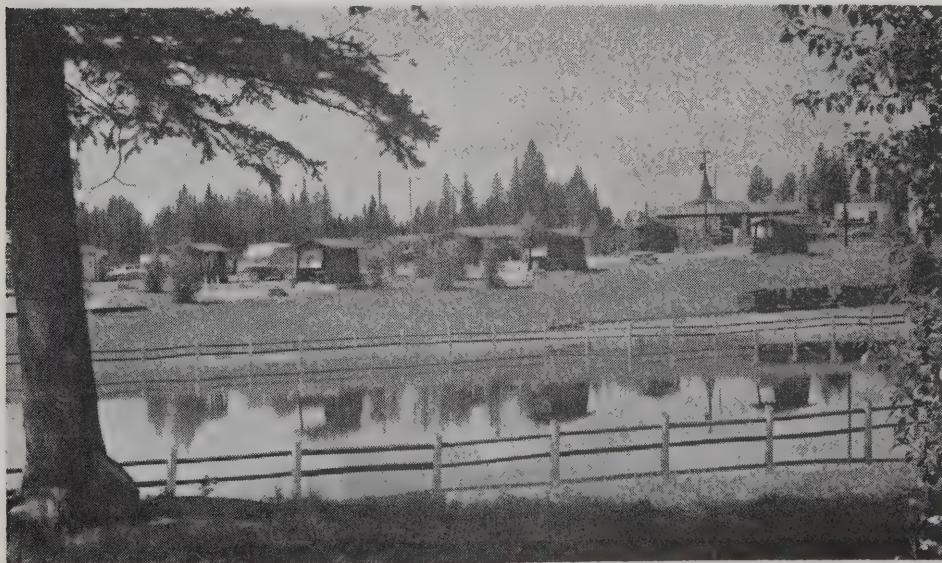
Anglican, United, Pentecostal, Tabernacle, Roman Catholic, Russian Greek Orthodox, Dutch Christian Reformed, Baptist, Jehovah's Witnesses, Grace Lutheran.

32. LODGES

Masonic, I.O.O.F., Eastern Star, Royal Purple, Rebekahs, Knights of Columbus, B.P.O.E.

33. SERVICE CLUBS

Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Legion, Kinsmen, Canadian Legion Women's Auxiliary, Lions, Kinettes, Toastmistresses.



Many travellers with camping equipment use these facilities.

34. SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Glenwood Community Club, Red Cross Society, Fish and Game Association, Civil Service Association, St. John's Hospital Auxiliary, Edson Rodeo Association, Edson Curling Club, Edson Golf Club, Minor Sports Association.

35. EDUCATION

The Yellowhead School Division Board of the Yellowhead School Division No. 12 operates a complete elementary, junior and senior high school system, providing all grades up to and including grade 12. A program of ungraded primary grouping which was introduced in the Yellowhead Division in September, 1957, has proved to be most successful and has been extended in the upper elementary levels of instruction. Nearly all electives are taught in the junior and senior high schools, with home economics and shop providing a maximum number of courses. The school population is made up as follows:

	Grades	No. of Teachers	No. of Pupils
Elementary	1 to 6	54	1,113
Junior High	7 to 9	25	572
High (Senior)	10 to 12	22	406

36. THEATRES AND HALLS

	Seating Cap.	Stage	Piano
Canadian Legion Hall	350	yes	yes
Elks Hall	100	no	yes
Edson Motor Hotel	187	no	yes
Commodore Hotel	130	no	yes
Collin Property Hall	100	no	yes
Glenwood Community Hall	100	yes	yes
Nova Theatre	514	yes	no
Elementary School Auditorium	700	yes	yes
Jr. Jubilee High School Aud.	1000	yes	yes
Drive-In Theatre	250 cars	yes	yes
Parkland Comp. High	800	yes	yes

Plus three other schools with auditoria, stages and pianos.

37. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Edson Public Library which contains 8,334 volumes is in charge of the Library Board. The Library receives the usual provincial grant and is tax supported.

Two local, five-piece orchestras.

Edson Craft Centre has established a shop and offers participation and classes in weaving, pottery, leather work, wood work and art.

Dance school.

38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Boys - Scouts, Wolf Cubs, Junior Forest Wardens, Army Cadets.
Girls - Brownies, Guides.

39. SPORTS

Baseball (senior and junior), softball (men's and women's), hockey, curling, skiing, badminton, rifle range (pistol and rifle), fishing, swimming, hunting, skin diving, golfing, figure skating, and snowmobiling.

Sports Facilities

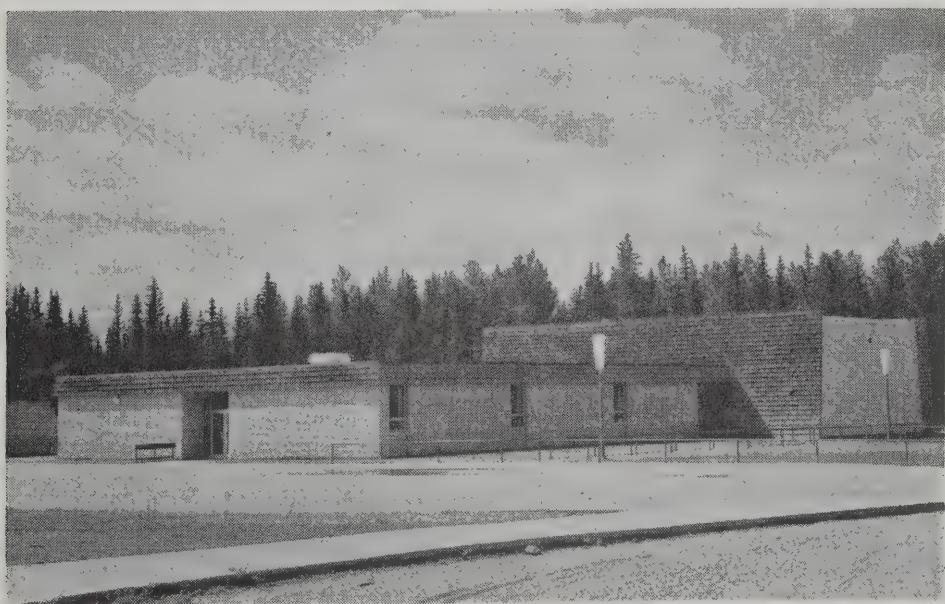
Covered curling rink - four sheets artificial ice.
Covered hockey and skating arena - artificial ice.
Sports grounds: swimming pool, 75x35'; wading pool 15x35'.
Willmore Park - 1 mile west, 1 mile south of town.
Camp and picnic grounds.
Rodeo grounds and race track.
Ski lift.

40. FAIRS

Agricultural Fair, two-day stampede, two sports days held yearly.

41. HISTORIC SITES

Starting point of the old Grande Prairie Trail.
Original Yellowhead Pack Trail.



The Pine Grove Elementary School at Edson is of unusual design.

42. CO-OPERATIVES

Edson District Credit Union, Unifarm.

43. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Type of Industry or Business	No. of Establishments	Type of Industry or Business	No. of Establishments
Ambulance	1	Coin Laundry	1
Bakeries	1	Lumber Yards	3
Banks	3	Lumber Mills	2
Barbers	5	Milk Distributors	1
Bowling Alleys	1	Motels	7
Body Shops	2	Music Teachers	3
Books and Stationery (See Drug Stores)		Optometrists	1
Butchers	5	Oil Distributors	4
Building Contractors	3	Oil Companies	2
Building Supplies	3	Painters & Decorators	3
Cartage Delivery	1	Paint Shops	1
Clothing - Men's	3	Photographers	1
Clothing - Women's	4	Pipelines (Gas)	1
Chiropractors	2	Plumbers	3
Confectionery	2	Pool Rooms	2
Cold Storage Lockers	1	Printing Shops	1
Dentists	1	Produce Wholesale	1
Doctors	4	Propane Gas Agents	1
Drug Stores	2	Public Accountants	1
Electrical Appliances	3	Radio Repairs	3
Electrical Contractors	2	Restaurants	11
Funeral Parlors	1	Shoe Repairs	1
Feed Stores	1	Shoe Stores	2
Garages and Service Stations	17	Sign Writers	1
Groceries	6	Second Hand Store	1
Hairdressers	4	Storage Plant	1
Hardware	7	Tailor Shops	1
Hotels	2	Theatres	1
Implements	1	Drive In	1
Insurance & Real Estate	3	Tinsmiths	2
Jewellers	1	Transports	2
Law Offices	2	Variety Stores	3
Laundry - Dry Cleaners	1	Welding and Machine Shops	3
		Woodworking	2

44. SITES

Choice industrial sites with adjacent trackage and highway facilities are available.

45. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Edson, "Gateway to the Rockies," is a busy town with area headquarters for a number of federal and provincial government departments.

The major industry is the Hudson's Bay Gas Processing Plant three miles west of town. Employing 53 people, it has a capacity of 340 million cubic feet of gas per day; 260 tons of sulphur or 3½ carloads; 3,000 barrels of con-

densate. It is the terminal for the 30-inch pipeline which transports the plant's gas production to the Trans-Canada system at Carstairs, 179 miles south.

Area office of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company serves the Pine and Beaver Creek gas fields which provides the raw gas to the Windfall plant, 45 miles north of Edson.

Trans-Mountain Pipelines Ltd. pumping station is an important terminal of the 24-inch oil line to Vancouver. Feeders to the line at the plant are Peace River pipeline, from the Sturgeon Lake field, 100 miles north; a condensate line from the Windfall gas plant; and the small line from the Edson gas plant.

Alberta Gas Trunk Line Ltd., have a field headquarters in Edson serving the first section of the 1,700-mile, 30-inch gas line to California and the new gas line part way to Carstairs.

A large highway construction firm is located in town. The company is contracting on projects in central and northern Alberta.

A major trucking firm specializing in long-distance hauling of oil exploration equipment and drilling supplies, and general freight movement from the larger centres, is located here.

A centralized printing operation for many weekly newspapers is conducted by Edson Printers, with a modern rotary offset press.

A major wholesale firm has a multi-million dollar business serving the west central area of Alberta.

Forestry operations include pulp camps and contracted timber leases producing pulp logs for the North Western Pulp Mill, at Hinton. Fence post manufacturing has several small firms and individuals working on a contract



The Parkland Composite High School serves both town students and those bussed in from the district.

basis. Sawmills in the area produce spruce, pine and poplar lumber and ties. Fire-killed timber has been a source for the dry-pulp industry and shipments have been made regularly for several years to mills in the mid-west United States.

Through the efforts of Human Resources Development Authority small farms are being encouraged to be consolidated into larger operations over a five-year period, to become self-sustained stock farms. Land not suitable for farming will be reforested.

The newly-developed Lions' Park in Edson will serve as a focal point in the ever-expanding tourist industry with several Vacation Trails radiating from the town. The \$100,000 park has a Tourist Centre, picnic and tenting facilities, community centre, miniature railway, a model coal mine, wading pool, sand pit, a miniature fort, slides and playgrounds. A fish pond has been stocked with rainbow trout for children's fishing only.

The Silver Summit Ski Development is located 28 miles north of Edson and provides ideal skiing for Edmonton fans, only 2½ hours drive from home. The lodge is circular with an area of 5,000 square feet. The one-storey structure has recreation and observation areas, eating facilities, licensed premises, all on the ground floor. Skiers will have swift rides to the top of the 4,000-foot runs by a high speed double lift and a smaller T-bar cable.

46. TRADING AREA

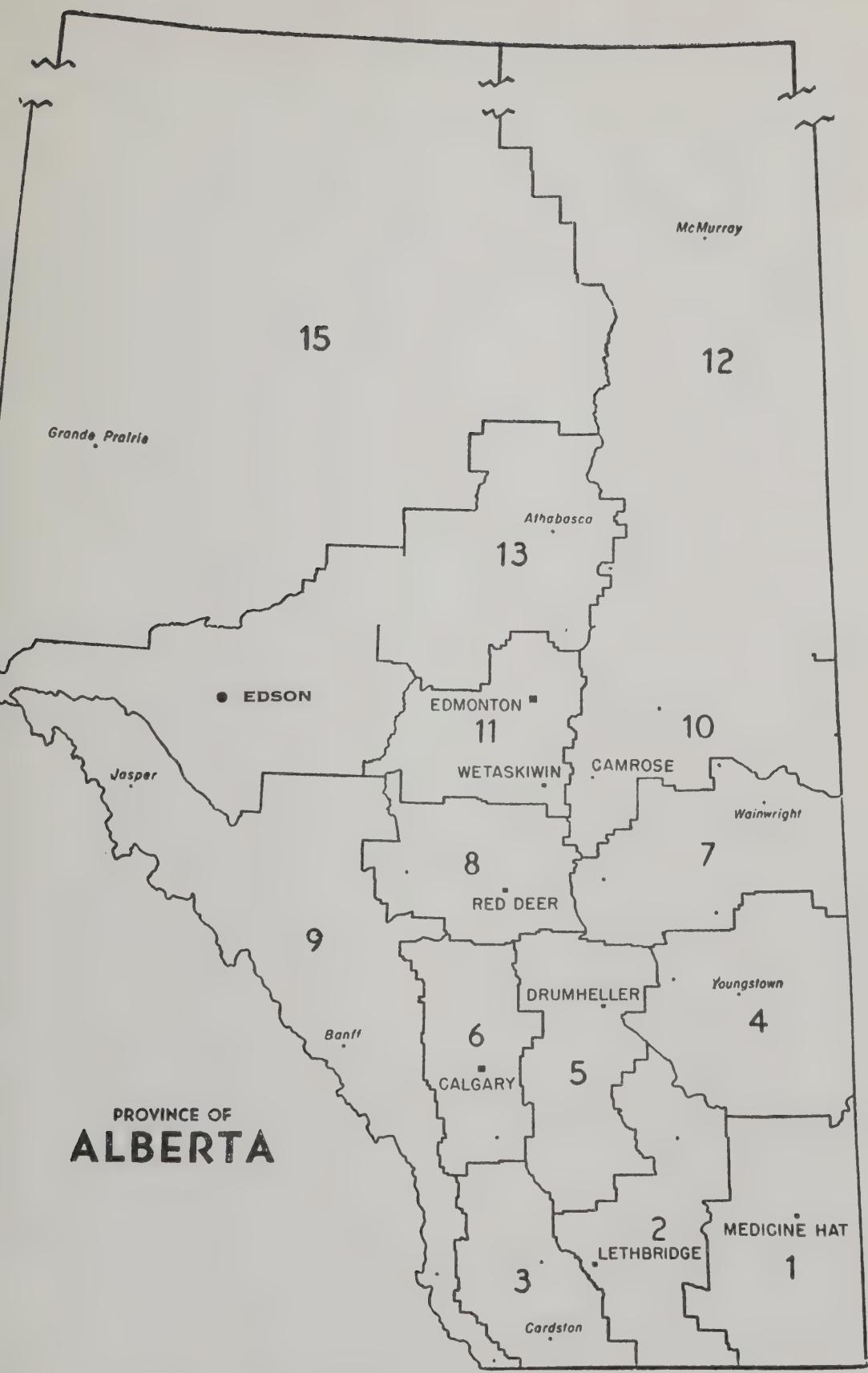
North for 35 miles, west for 60 miles, south to the McLeod River and east for 60 miles.

Town population, 1971 census (local) - 4,051.

Trading area population (1969) - 15,000.



The large swimming pool is a summertime recreation facility enjoyed by many.



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